

there in that basin, in the Klamath Basin project—this is a project that was built over 100 years ago to make more water available solely for agriculture from the Klamath Lake. That is the original lake with an additional supply.

Yet, the Bureau of Reclamation and environmental organizations and agencies believe that is their water to take and try to mitigate fish issues in the Klamath River. This kind of attitude has shifted all the way through the Klamath, on down to the Sacramento River.

The Bureau of Reclamation needs to get its act together and be reminded, again and again, that the Klamath project was developed for agriculture, not to help mitigate fish issues that, truly, probably can't really be solved.

On top of that, another thing the people of Klamath and the Siskiyou and northern California area are suffering is that they want to remove the dams that make hydroelectric power on the Klamath River by making a regulatory scheme that is almost impossible for them to renew the licenses.

That is how government does it. They make it too costly, too impossible to continue to stay in business via the permit process.

So, hydroelectric power is going to be less in California, which is already a tough thing on our power grid.

What is the big thing against the people of Klamath Basin? I don't understand. We need food. We need electricity.

RECOGNIZING FINCASTLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department for 75 years of service.

Since its beginning in 1947, the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department has been a 100 percent volunteer organization and remains strong with 30 volunteers currently.

These brave men and women play a crucial role in working alongside Botetourt County Fire and EMS services, offering critical localized emergency fire prevention and mitigation support for the people of Fincastle.

The volunteers who serve as firefighters and EMTs within the department go through extensive training, giving up their time, energy, and safety to help others.

Working alongside the firefighters and EMTs are support personnel who perform the vital administrative work and fundraising that keeps the station functioning.

They are led by current officers Chief Dustin Ware, Deputy Chief Ben Campbell, Captain Matthew Webster, Lieutenant Kyle Setliff, Lieutenant Frank Schermer, and Lieutenant Jordan Campbell.

The Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department's longevity stands as a testament

to the civic spirit of the town and an example we should all follow.

I thank the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless service and wish them another 75 years of success.

RECOGNIZING STUARTS DRAFT CHEERLEADING TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Stuarts Draft Cougars cheer team for winning this year's Class 1 and 2 Virginia State cheerleading championship. This victory marks the program's fifth State title in 6 years.

The Cougars faced numerous hurdles to reach this victory, placing second behind Fort Defiance during the first round. However, before the second round began, Coach Tammy Carter told the team to be "the athletes they trained to be," and they did just that.

By focusing on what they needed to improve, the Cougars left it all on the mat and increased their score by 30½ points, earning the State title.

These talented athletes include Lexi Almarode, Addison Colvin, Jenna Comer, Sofia Coppola, Taylor Huffman, Zoe Mader, Zane Marshall, Abby Mikolay, Caydence Morris, Tarynn Morris, Baleigh Painter, Eiko Puckett, Olivia Puckett, Alyssa Sanner, Holly Stevens, A'mya Swats, and Natalie Thompson.

For six seniors on the team, Sofia, Zoe, Zane, Abby, Caydence, and Baleigh, this was their memory of cheering together, an outpouring of emotion hoisting the State championship trophy one final time.

Senior Zane Marshall said of his class' historic reign: "To have three [State championships], I don't even know how to feel. It is crazy," he said.

The seniors will leave their high school cheerleading careers with their heads held high, knowing their leadership and performance have left a lasting legacy on the team.

Congratulations to all the talented athletes and dedicated coaches on this incredible victory. They have earned it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

PROCEEDINGS OF FORMER MEMBERS PROGRAM

The following proceedings were held before the House convened for morning-hour debate:

UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS 2022 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Dennis Ross, vice president of Former Members of Congress Association, at 8 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the whole world from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. And so we pause in this place to acknowledge Your hand in the governing of our Nation.

We give thanks to You that from generation to generation and Congress to Congress, You have called men and women to serve in this House, upholding the values of freedom and liberty on which our country was founded. We honor their continued defense of the rights and welfare of the people and communities who make up these United States.

Call us, then, this day and every day, in office or out, to acknowledge the higher calling to which You call each of us, wherever You call each of us to be. May we ever live as agents of Your love, instruments of Your peace, and advocates of the hope You set before us. We pray this in Your most holy name.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Dennis Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mr. ROSS. I now ask the clerk to call the roll of all former and retiring Members.

The Clerk called the roll and the following Members were "present":

Mr. Altmire of Pennsylvania
Mr. Bartlett of Maryland
Ms. BOURDEAUX of Georgia
Mr. Capuano of Massachusetts
Mr. CHABOT of Ohio
Mr. Clay of Missouri
Mr. Cook of California
Mr. Davis of Tennessee
Mr. Davis of Virginia
Ms. Edwards of Maryland
Mr. Faso of New York
Mr. Graves of Georgia
Ms. Harman of California
Mr. Holt of New Jersey
Mr. Hutchinson of Arkansas
Mr. McEwen of Ohio
Ms. Morella of Maryland
Mr. Rick Nolan of Virginia
Mr. Paulsen of Minnesota
Mr. L.F. Payne of Virginia
Mr. Petri of Wisconsin
Mr. Quinn of New York
Mr. Ritter of Pennsylvania
Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida
Mr. Ross of Florida
Mr. SCHRADER of Oregon
Mr. Smith of Florida
Mr. Stearns of Florida
Mr. Stupak of Michigan
Mr. SUOZZI of New York
Mr. Tanner of Tennessee
Mr. UPTON of Michigan
Mr. Walker of Pennsylvania

Mr. Weller of Illinois
 Mr. PERLMUTTER of Colorado
 Mrs. DEMINGS of Florida
 Mr. Glickman of Kansas
 Mr. McMillen of Maryland
 Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER of Washington
 Mr. Meehan of Pennsylvania
 Mr. YARMUTH of Kentucky
 Ms. SPEIER of California
 Mr. Moran of Virginia

Mr. ROSS. The Chair announces that 32 former and retiring Members of Congress have responded to their names.

The Chair now recognizes the Honorable L.F. Payne, president of the Association of the Former Members of Congress to address the Members.

Mr. PAYNE. Good morning, everybody.

Dennis, thank you very much. It is an honor to be here on the House floor, and especially with many of my former colleagues and Members who are retiring from the Congress. Thank you all.

On behalf of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, which we will call FMC as I move through this, I very much appreciate the Speaker's invitation to return to this very important place and to present the Congress FMC's annual report, which this year we are presenting specifically under the theme "Life After Congress" for our new former Members who are not returning for the 118th Congress. We will share with them how they can continue their public service through work with FMC. I will be joined by some of my colleagues to report on a few of FMC's premier programs.

As I prepared for today's report, it brought back a lot of memories, many happy memories, of my decade serving in the U.S. Congress.

For all of us, the Congress is one of the highlights of our professional lives. And I know that for each and every one of us, there are memories that will ever remind us of the great privilege that we have had as Representatives of our constituents.

For me, these memories include great friendships with colleagues from both sides of the aisle, working with terrific and very talented young people who were on my staff and others, and pushing forward pieces of legislation that I know have made a positive difference in the lives of Americans.

By serving in Congress, we were given the opportunity to serve our country and its citizens, and I am very proud that through FMC we can continue in an important way the public service that has brought us to Congress in the first place. There is, indeed, life after Congress, and today, we will share with you how FMC members continue to give back.

FMC is the premier NGO focused on our legislative branch, involving both current and former Members from the House and Senate in our work.

We are dedicated to strengthening representative democracy at home and abroad, we strive to encourage public service in the next generation, and we support and promote Congress as an in-

stitution and current Members in their important work.

The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress was created over 50 years ago. It was a social organization akin to a university's alumni association. And while we retain that mandate, we have also over the years added many substantive programs that make great use of the unique skill set and experience inherent in our membership.

Some of these programs we will explain in some detail over the next hour. As you learn more about FMC, please keep one fact in mind: We are 100 percent a bipartisan organization.

Our strength lies in the fact that Republicans and Democrats work together for the good of our organization and our country and are united as they continue their public service.

It is within that spirit that I now introduce your colleagues, DEREK KILMER of Washington State and WILLIAM TIMMONS of South Carolina, who lead the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. They will tell you how, as former Members, you can support the momentum that the bipartisan committee has created through their 200 recommendations to help improve the Congress.

Mr. KILMER. We have gotten used to singing duets together. It is good to be with you. Thanks to each of you for your service.

I am DEREK KILMER. I represent the west coast of Washington State, a little north of Jaime.

About every 20 or 30 years or so, Congress realizes things aren't working the way they ought to, and they create a committee to look at potential reforms. The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress is the most recent iteration of that.

The title of the committee makes it sound like we are the IT help desk, but we have been nicknamed the "fix Congress committee," which usually either causes people to giggle or offer to pray for us.

Pretty much under the radar for the last 4 years, our committee has been focused on a single mission, which is to make Congress work better for the American people.

I served as chair. Tom Graves was the vice chair in the last Congress and WILLIAM TIMMONS in this Congress. It has been a truly bipartisan effort.

I say that in part because the rule that established our committee set it up with six Democrats and six Republicans and a requirement that a two-thirds vote was required to pass any recommendations. As of last month, our committee very quietly passed more than 200 recommendations, all focused on making Congress work better.

Some of them are on pretty wonky things, issues like how we make sure that Congress is a more modern institution that uses technology better. Congress has been described as an 18th century institution using 20th century technology to solve 21st century problems. That is pretty apt, so some of our

recommendations have been focused in that regard.

A lot of our recommendations, despite the fact that it wasn't one of our assignments, have been geared toward trying to make this a place where there is more civility and collaboration. Our committee brought in management consultants and organizational psychologists, and we thought about consulting an exorcist to figure out how to make this a place that functions better.

We made about a dozen recommendations in that regard, everything from having committees do bipartisan planning retreats to having the institution do a bipartisan retreat and to changing how orientation is done so it is not so segregated by party.

I think every one of you former Members will acknowledge that part of the success of the institution depends on staff, on having talented people who work in this institution. Unfortunately, because this place hasn't sufficiently invested in our staff, we see a massive turnover, so a number of our recommendations were geared toward having this be a place that can recruit and retain and have a more diverse staff.

I thank the FMC for being partners in this undertaking. We have had some of you testify at hearings. We have had your sort of subcommittees geared toward the same topics that we were interested in.

If I can go from the rearview mirror into the windshield, we are not done. About two-thirds of our recommendations have either been implemented or are on the path to implementation, but we are going to have to kind of keep pushing the institution to make change. Each one of you, as stewards of the institution, I think, has a role to play in that regard.

On top of that, in terms of the future of this work, our committee will go away. Having said that, it appears that there will be a select subcommittee on House admin to focus on implementation of the recommendations.

We also made a recommendation that it shouldn't take another 20 or 30 years before Congress takes up the subject of reform again. So, one of our recommendations was, every three or four Congresses or so, Congress ought to do a committee like this just to make sure that there is constant focus on improving the institution.

We have had extraordinary partnerships, including with some of your Members and some of your soon-to-be Members, ED PERLMUTTER, as well, who have been just terrific partners in this undertaking.

I will say one other thing, and then I will kick it over to WILLIAM. Throughout the course of this work, I kept thinking about a comment made by former Secretary John Gardner. He talked about the importance of stewardship of an institution, and he said it was important for those who care about an institution to be loving critics of it, that it would be a mistake to

be an uncritical lover because it denies an institution of the life-giving drive toward improvement. And it is important not to be an unloving critic that just treats the institution like the pinata at the party and bashes it with an eye toward destruction, not improvement.

I thank the FMC and each of you because I think the manner through which you have engaged our committee has very much been through that lens of being loving critics of this institution which you served, and I thank you for that.

Mr. TIMMONS. Good morning. I am William Timmons. I represent Greenville and Spartanburg, South Carolina. I got elected to the 116th Congress.

My campaign slogan when I ran for Congress was, "Washington is broken." To be the freshman member on the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress was really a dream come true.

I got to work with Tom Graves, my mentor, and DEREK KILMER, and I saw them do something that doesn't really happen up here much: They worked together. They were respectful of each other, and they really made that a priority for the committee. All the Members got to know each other.

We had a meeting at the very beginning. We talked about why we ran for Congress, what we wanted to change about this place, and we got to know each other on a personal level. We acted in the manner that we thought that this place should work.

That leadership from Tom Graves and DEREK KILMER was inspirational for the committee, but it was rewarding for me professionally because we have worked hard to get things done, and we passed 202 recommendations.

I have done my best the last 2 years to fill Tom Graves' void on the committee. I always joke that I am the vice chair with no hair. He has the best hair of any Member I have seen, so I always make that joke.

I also thank the former Members. It is my understanding that we wouldn't have been able to do this without your efforts.

Obviously, inevitably, some of the recommendations we made would devolve some of the power from leadership into the Members. We always talk about regular order, and I could imagine that many Speakers would not be inclined to do that. But the efforts made by current Members and former Members to have this select committee was critical. Not only did we get a year, we then got another year, and then we got 2 more years.

We are not done, as the chairman said. We are going to continue working to implement the 202 recommendations we have made, and I am optimistic that we will have an even greater impact than we have already had.

I thank you all for your help to have the committee created to push our recommendations forward. I thank Tom Graves, my friend and mentor, for showing me how this place can work.

Most importantly, Chair KILMER, it has been incredible to work with you. Thank you for all of your hard work.

Last but not least, we have Derek Harley here. He is one of the staff directors. Yuri Beckelman is now a chief to a new freshman, so he is not here, but we couldn't do it without him.

We were a team, and we got a lot done, and as the chairman said, we are not done yet. We are going to continue to push the ball forward.

Thank you for all of your help and for having us here today.

Mr. PAYNE. Chairman KILMER, thank you very much, and Vice Chairman TIMMONS. You have done a tremendous job with your leadership on this very important initiative for the Congress and the country.

In New York in June, we had an opportunity to recognize both of them with the Distinguished Service Award. Thank you again.

What you just heard is really a prime example of how we at FMC can support Congress as an institution. We are really very proud to be invited to do so.

At this juncture, let me give you a little more background on FMC. As I said, we were incorporated over 50 years ago as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable and educational organization. We are chartered by Congress, but we receive absolutely no funds from Congress or the government. No taxpayer dollars are earmarked for any FMC program, and that is a fact and one that we are very proud of.

Everything we do is self-funded through membership dues, through fundraising events, and through program-specific grants. Our most recent audit proclaimed us fiscally sound and financially healthy.

One of the most immediate and most impactful ways you, as returning Members, can support FMC financially is by considering to be a sustaining member of FMC.

We now have more than five dozen, almost six dozen former Members who have made this notable commitment to FMC. They are ensuring that not only we can present our important and numerous programs to the public, but they are also contributing to the longevity and continuity of this organization, as half of the sustaining membership contribution is earmarked for our long-term, rainy-day fund.

I am pleased to add a list of our sustaining members to the RECORD, and I thank them for their tremendous support of FMC.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS OF FMC

The Hon. Les AuCoin (Oregon), Brian Baird (Washington), Joe Barton (Texas), Mike Bishop (Michigan), Rick Boucher (Virginia), Susan Brooks (Indiana), Cheri Bustos (Illinois) (As of January 4th), Dave Camp (Michigan), Ben Chandler (Kentucky), Mike Conaway (Texas), Paul Cook (California), Ryan Costello (Pennsylvania), Peter DeFazio (Oregon) (As of January 4th), Jeff Denham (California), Charles W. Dent (Pennsylvania).

The Hon. Sean Duffy (Wisconsin), Elizabeth Esty (Connecticut), Sam Farr (California), John Faso (New York), Bill Flores

(Texas), Martin Frost (Texas), Tom Garrett (Virginia), Phil Gingrey (Georgia), Bob Goodlatte (Virginia), Bart Gordon (Tennessee), Tom Graves (Georgia), Gene Green (Texas), John Hall (New York), George Holding (North Carolina), Asa Hutchinson (Arkansas).

The Hon. Lynn Jenkins (Kansas), Doug Jones (Alabama), Kaiali'i Kahele (Hawaii) (As of January 4th), Ron Kind (Wisconsin) (As of January 4th), Adam Kinzinger (Illinois) (As of January 4th), John Kline (Minnesota), Scott Klug (Wisconsin), Andy Levin (Michigan) (As of January 4th), Jim Matheson (Utah), Ben Michael McAdams (Utah), Jim McDermott (Washington), Mike McIntyre (North Carolina), Pat Meehan (Pennsylvania), Jeff Miller (Florida).

The Hon. Jim Moran (Virginia), Stephanie Murphy (Florida) (As of January 4th), Randy Neugebauer (Texas), Steve Palazzo (Mississippi), Erik Paulsen (Minnesota), Tim Petri (Wisconsin), Ted Poe (Texas), Kathleen M. Rice (New York) (As of January 4th), Martha Roby (Alabama), Peter Roskam (Illinois), Dennis Ross (Florida), Loretta Sanchez (California), James Sensenbrenner (Wisconsin).

The Hon. Donna Shalala (Florida), John Shimkus (Illinois), Bill Shuster (Pennsylvania), Lamar Smith (Texas), Cliff Stearns (Florida), Steve Stivers (Ohio), John Tanner (Tennessee), Mac Thornberry (Texas), Pat Tiberi (Ohio), David A. Trott (Michigan), Henry Waxman (California), Rob Woodall (Georgia), Ted Yoho (Florida).

Mr. PAYNE. Thanks to Mr. KILMER and Mr. TIMMONS, you have already gotten a flavor of how we support the Congress as an institution.

I now yield the floor to FMC board member Tom Graves of Georgia, who will tell you about FMC's many different programs to keep us connected as former colleagues and to create media opportunities for our members to share their insights. He will be followed by FMC board member Donna Edwards of Maryland to tell you about our most important domestic undertaking, the Congress to Campus program.

Mr. GRAVES. Good morning, everybody. First, let me just say, for any Member who is exiting that is considering Former Members of Congress, 8 a.m. is not a normal start time for any meeting. That is safe for me to say, or I would not be affiliated. This is not comfortable for me, either.

I know, most former Members know, and the Members who are exiting know that the Former Members of Congress is really a great organization.

My first interface with it was walking through one morning early and seeing the group meeting here, and I believe Tom Price was speaking and a few of the others that are in the crowd here today. I was curious as to what the group was and hung around for the reception, not knowing that one day I would be speaking before you.

There are only so many hours that are going to be in your day in the days ahead, and it is a challenge when you lose your scheduler. You lose that critical staff. Yet, there is so much you want to do.

How do you manage that time? How do you manage the resources? I have found that the former Members group here is really helpful in that.

It is helpful in how to, I would say, extend your public service because you just never want to step away, but sometimes you do voluntarily and involuntarily, but you want to stay involved.

The former Members organization has allowed me to continue my service in a different capacity, which has been a joy.

For me, I have enjoyed the travel side of it, and I know many have been on codels and have enjoyed the travel through codels. There is that opportunity, as well, through the Former Members of Congress.

For me, this past year, I was able to enjoy a trip to New York City, which, being from the South, is a new, big place for me. We had a great time as a group, in a board meeting planning and discussing, but also exploring some of the city and some of the sights there.

Even more exciting was a trip that I enjoyed to Iceland. I never had the chance to visit Iceland, and this was a trip with former Members, spouses, and guests. It was not a trip paid for by the former Members organization. Your dues, sustaining dues, didn't go to that. It was, in fact, a self-paid trip that was organized by the former Members.

To have the opportunity to represent the United States at that stage was fascinating. We were able to meet with the President, former President, a former Speaker, and the newly, I guess, installed Ambassador from the U.S. to Iceland—newly as in that week she arrived. We had the opportunity to visit with her at the Embassy, so it was a great time.

As with all codels, in essence, you meet folks whom you wouldn't have normally met, and you spend time with folks you wouldn't normally spend time with. So as former Members you rekindle old relationships, potentially, but then you also create new ones that you wouldn't have done otherwise.

For me there was a special one. I refer to her as Miss Marjorie. Pat, you may have known Marjorie Margolies from the Philadelphia suburbs, and I believe mother-in-law to Chelsea Clinton. For some reason, we hit it off. We couldn't be further apart politically or geographically and in a lot of different ways, and, yet, we had a little fun exchange in a webinar. I was participating in a webinar about the former Members doing Congress to Campus.

We were doing this webinar, and I kept referring to her as Miss Marjorie, Miss Marjorie, Miss Marjorie. I was being so kind and bipartisan, and she was being strong and very partisan, I felt like. Somewhere through that she referred to me as "that silver tongue from the South" to the whole group. I thought, I have finally hit home with her. She has figured me out.

These trips are a great time to definitely meet folks and enjoy that opportunity. Also, there is that freedom and flexibility that I found comforting. Codels are fantastic opportunities to explore and meet folks, but you get a

little more freedom and flexibility in your planning and timing and such. So for former Members, codels are great to be a part of.

I would say on the trips the other thing I learned is you develop relationships with people who come from a different political background and from a different philosophy but also from a historical background.

This was incredibly eye-opening to me to interact with Members who had served here just like we have, but had a historical lens that was very, very different and to reconcile that with today or with the issues that I was dealing with and to see that conveyed to others.

So as I close, I will close with this: Aside from trips, I had the chance to join in a panel discussion with one of our former colleagues, Ms. Edwards, whom you will hear from in a minute—and then also former Senator Hutchinson whom I hadn't met before. We had a fun exchange and discussion about the elections and what to expect in the elections.

You will have those opportunities. What is great about those opportunities is that you do learn about others. You do learn other perspectives. But more so, it keeps you sharp.

One of my concerns leaving Congress is: How do you stay sharp?

So being ready, being able to state your opinion, being able to back it up, but also to respect others keeps you sharp. We should stay sharp because if you want to extend your public service, you need to be sharp. You need to be a sharp opinion leader, and you need to be a sharp communicator because folks are going to be expecting to hear from you in the days ahead.

So with that, Mr. Chair, I thank you for the opportunity to address, and thanks, L.F., for the opportunity to be on the board.

I happily yield to the young lady from Maryland (Ms. Edwards).

Ms. EDWARDS. Good morning. Don't get distracted by the cane, it might fall. If I fall, catch me.

Good morning, everyone. I thank you so much for being here this morning with the former Members of Congress.

I am really grateful to be able to speak with you this morning about one of my favorite programs and FMC's biggest program, Congress to Campus.

I love Congress to Campus. As some of you know, the Congress to Campus program brings bipartisan pairs of former Members of Congress to college campuses for 1½ to 3 days to meet with classes, student groups, clubs, local media, faculty, and other members of a college campus community to engage in frank and honest dialogues about our legislative branch in action, public service, and our democracy and the role that citizens play. We talk about current legislative issues and other topics dictated by the headlines.

The way it works is a bipartisan team of former Members share real-life experiences in both political and public

realms. They discuss their unique experiences balancing public and private lives, giving an unparalleled insight into the many roles of our elected Representatives. In addition, the Members focus on the real-world application of policymaking and illustrate how government policy influences the everyday lives of citizens. Students love it. Congress to Campus is an exceptional perspective about life in Washington and on Capitol Hill, especially when you have a little bit of distance.

Currently, when there is a great deal of negativity surrounding Congress, the Congress to Campus program highlights the power of bipartisanship, the dignity of public service, and the importance of actively engaging its citizenry. Students get so much out of it, and the questions that they have really reflect the purpose of the Congress to Campus program.

The three goals of Congress to Campus are to showcase civil, respectful, and productive debate on issues where former Members still wear their partisan hats—and we do, for example, on environmental policy or on the Second Amendment. But they engage students in a back and forth very different from the shouting matches that students sometimes see on cable news and social media. I have to say I have engaged in that.

Secondly, it encourages public service in the next generation to show interested students a path toward Capitol Hill and to mentor future public servants. It reminds the students that in their role as citizens, they need to be active participants in our representative democracy, otherwise our form of government just doesn't work. Students get to hear firsthand the importance of that even when you share or have political differences.

At a minimum, these events showcase to students that they have a responsibility to be informed voters.

Congress to Campus also shares the many other ways those being represented can hold accountable those doing the representing.

The former Members of Congress donate all their time and insight pro bono to the program. This is a real value because otherwise, especially for small college campuses, it would be impossible for those campuses to be able to pay the honorarium and travel and all of those things. So none of the Members of Congress participating in Congress to Campus receive a fee or honorarium for their time. FMC funding only goes toward covering travel and lodging costs. Congress to Campus is made possible thanks to the support of the Stennis Center and the Park Foundation.

This past spring Congress to Campus went to 11 different college campuses reaching nearly 1,000 students. This past fall Congress to Campus held over 15 programs with schools and organizations alike, including one trip to the United Kingdom and one trip to Germany with our former Members reaching over 1,000 students. Most schools

feel comfortable transitioning back to in-person programming, but there are still many opportunities to hold these events virtually, as well, and I think we learned a lot during the pandemic about ways that we could reach schools that we ordinarily otherwise would not be able to travel to.

To quote one student from Western Oregon University after attending a Congress to Campus visit, the student said: "I always thought that Congress officials did get letters asking for change, but I always thought they ignored the changes people wanted. I learned they actually do care and will try to make the changes when someone petitions to them. I also learned I should not only look at one person's side I most agree with, and that rather, I should look at issues from both perspectives."

That was from a student from Western Oregon University.

Looking ahead to the new year, the focus of Congress to Campus will shift to reaching out to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal colleges, and Hispanic-serving institutions, military academies and colleges and also to inner-city colleges where students may never have the opportunity to speak with Members of our Congress, like you. Currently, there are 12 schools already signed up for the spring of 2023. So you will have your opportunity as well to sign up in bipartisan pairs. Don't miss your opportunity.

So our ask of you is to be part of our flagship program, Congress to Campus. Help us help these students see that bipartisanship and civility are alive and thriving, especially at a divisive time like this. One big testament to the program is our before and after program surveys; 100 percent of students on their post-event survey say that their mind has changed about Congress, for the better.

I love Congress to Campus. In addition to the amazing students, one of my favorite aspects of the program is the opportunity to work with my colleagues from across the aisle—some of whom I did not know well or serve with—to change ideas and policy programs in a respectful way and to show students that critical thinking and healthy disagreement are part of the beauty of the Republic.

I will say on a personal note, I really got to know Charles Boustany from Louisiana. We become fast and furious friends. My friend, the Chair, Dennis Roth, and I have done a number of these programs together, and now we are RV companions.

So if you would like to get involved, please contact the Congress to Campus program manager Patricia Ochs.

Thank you so much for your time today.

Mr. PAYNE: So, Tom and Donna, thank you very much for sharing your insight and thank you for being such great members of FMC.

FMC is a volunteer organization, and I think our programs have a lot of im-

pact because our members on a bipartisan basis contribute to us and to the public their knowledge and time. We are successful because former Representatives and Senators come together across party lines for the good of our organization. They do this on a pro bono basis. They believe in our mission, and they continue to have a public servant's heart.

Former Members of Congress in 2021 and 2022 donated more than 7,000 hours of energy, wisdom, mentoring, and expertise without receiving any compensation. The only compensation is the knowledge that they are giving back, that serving in Congress was a unique privilege, and that it comes with the mandate to encourage and empower the next generation.

On behalf of FMC, I want to thank all of our colleagues who have contributed their time and expertise to make FMC such a success. So while I have all of you here, I thank you all and thank you to the many members of FMC who are not with us today, as well.

Let me also share with the new former Members that through FMC you can contribute to civic education across the country. You can share with audiences worldwide. You have unparalleled insight through panels and webinars on issues from economic policy to security issues and travel overseas as part of former Member delegations at the invitation of our global partners.

We also run a number of highly successful programs involving senior congressional staff including chiefs of staff and district directors across the Nation.

Again, all of our work is accomplished because Democrats and Republicans band together as they continue their public service through FMC.

One way our international work manifests itself is through FMC's Congressional Study Groups. These are programs that support the current Congress and current Members of Congress by bringing them together with their peers in legislative branches overseas. These parliamentary exchanges focus currently on the German Bundestag, Japan's National Diet, the European Parliament in Brussels, and the Korean National Assembly.

I now invite two of our board members to share with you their insight into FMC's international programming. Former Senator and House Member Tim Hutchinson, who will speak about our Congressional Study Groups, and former Member Connie Morella, who has been a leader for FMC on many projects for a very long time, including our very important Diplomatic Advisory Council.

Tim?

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Thank you, L.F. It is great to be back in the House today. I am glad you have made passing reference to the Senate. It is good to be on the House floor where the motto in this institution as I can always remember is, the other party is

the opposition, and the Senate is the enemy.

So I am glad you include Senators in the former Members organization.

It is my great pleasure to report on the work of the Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Japan, Europe, and Korea, the flagship international program of the FMC.

The study groups are independent, bipartisan legislative exchanges that engage current Members of Congress and their senior staff and strive to create a better understanding and cooperation between the United States and our most important strategic and economic partners.

Unique in their year-round, bipartisan, and non-advocacy outreach to Capitol Hill, the Congressional Study Groups remain a premier forum for productive, candid, and topical dialogue on the issues most relevant to our friends and allies abroad.

Featuring voices from Congress, the diplomatic community, administration officials, the private sector, and civil society, study group programming attracts a large and diverse group of policymakers who are committed to productive dialogue.

Each study group has a bipartisan membership roster of between 75 and 125 Members of Congress and is led by a bipartisan, bicameral pair of co-chairs. Our co-chairs are true leaders, who not only serve in their role at the official study group events but are also called on by various embassies and outside organizations to speak on panels, attend roundtables, and meet with countless visiting delegations to the United States.

I would take just a moment to acknowledge the service of our co-chairs for their dedication to these critical programs:

The Congressional Study Group on Germany is led by Senator TIM SCOTT, Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, Representative BRENDAN BOYLE, and Representative AUGUST PFLUGER.

The Congressional Study Group on Japan is led by Senator DAN SULLIVAN, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, Representative DIANA DEGETTE, and Representative LARRY BUCSHON.

The Congressional Study Group on Korea is led by Senator BRIAN SCHATZ, Senator DAN SULLIVAN, Representative AMI BERA, and Representative YOUNG KIM.

The Congressional Study Group on Europe is led by Senator JOHN BOOZMAN of the great State of Arkansas, Senator CHRIS MURPHY, Representative BILL HUIZENGA, and Representative DEBORAH ROSS.

A few highlights from our program calendar in the last 12 months include: Annual Congressional Member Study Tour to Japan, visiting both Tokyo and Kyoto.

Annual Congressional Member Study Tour to Korea, visiting Seoul.

The 37th Annual Congress-Bundestag Seminar hosted by Representative BRENDAN BOYLE in Pennsylvania.

A Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Dusseldorf and Cologne, Germany.

Two Senior Congressional Staff Study Tours to Korea.

Two Senior Congressional Staff Study Tours to Japan.

Over 55 high-level exchanges and roundtables here in our Nation's capital.

So it has been a very full and very busy year for the Congressional Study Groups.

As former Members of Congress, we are proud to bring the important services provided by the Congressional Study Groups to our colleagues still in office and are proud to play an active role in our continued international outreach.

Now we will hear from Ambassador Connie Morella.

Ms. MORELLA. I don't have a hat on, so you can see me, can't you. I thank you, Tim. What I will be mentioning to you is going to be a long list of businesses and countries that have been affiliated with us. It will show you how extensive, how intensive, how expansive, how productive our groups are.

The work of the Congressional Study Groups is complemented by our Diplomatic Advisory Council. Initially focused on European nations, the Diplomatic Advisory Council is now comprised of dozens of ambassadors from five continents who advise and participate in our programming.

Their interest and commitment to multilateral dialogue is a valued addition to the Congressional Study Groups, and it provides a valuable outreach beyond our four core study groups.

Members of the Diplomatic Advisory Council in 2022 include: the Embassy of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Isn't that impressive. Incredible.

I also would like to thank those individuals, organizations, and Business Advisory corporate members whose patronage makes the work of the Congressional Study Groups possible. In particular, I would like to recognize Dr. Satoshihiro Akimoto of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, Thomas Byrne of the Korea Society, Sung Won Bae of the Korea Foundation USA, Bailey Childers of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Paige Cottingham-Streater of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, and Julia Friedlander of Atlantik-Brücke for their support as institutional funders of the Congressional Study Groups in 2022. You can see the support that we have received.

Companies who belong to the 2022 Business Advisory Council—and this is a long list, folks—are: Aflac, Allianz, All Nippon Airways, BASF, Bayer, B.

Braun Medical, Beam Suntory, Central Japan Railway Company, CJ America, Daimler, Deutsche Telekom, DHL, Fresenius SE, Hitachi, Honda, Hyundai, Itochu, JTI, KITA, Lockheed Martin, Lufthansa German Airlines, Marubeni America Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas), Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Mitsui, Mizuho, NEC, Nissan, Nomura, Panasonic, POSCO, Representative of German Industry and Trade, Samsung, Sojitz, Subaru, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Tellurian, Toyota Motor North America, United Parcel Service, and Volkswagen Group of America.

Wow. Isn't that a long list. But just know, all of them have been very much involved with our Business Advisory Council, which says how expansive we are and how we have connected.

Because of your financial support, our activities not only help to build vital bilateral relationships between legislatures, but also build bipartisan relationships within our own Congress. Mutual understanding and shared experiences among legislators are crucial to solving pressing problems, whether they are at home or abroad. I thank you.

If I mispronounced one of those names, just know they are there for us and we are very appreciative of the support that they have given us. Thank you.

Mr. ROSS. The Chair recognizes the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Thank you all. Good morning, my friends. It is wonderful to be here with you. Thank you for the recognition. L.F. Payne, thank you for keeping this going and for your leadership. It was an honor to serve with you in the House—each and every one—I think I served with all of you, certainly Jane, Donna, and Mr. Secretary of so many titles. To all of you, welcome back to the Chamber.

It is an interesting time, a busy time. Something that binds us all together is the oath that we take to the Constitution of the United States, regardless of party, regardless of the aisle, we are united in that oath to the Constitution.

I thank you for so much that you are doing in terms of Congress to Campus and the beautiful ceremony you have each year honoring those who have gone on to heaven—I assume—having served in the Congress.

We just lost—a week and a half ago—Mr. McEachin. I mention him because of his recent departure, but also, he said something very beautiful on his first speech on the floor of the House. He quoted Christ's first sermon. Imagine that. Christ's first sermon.

I will read this to you, so you know I did not make this up. Mr. McEachin cited during his first speech the words of Jesus' first sermon, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring good news to the poor." Imagine. Imagine.

Again, with all of us here, we offer hope in the face of hardship—on both

sides—we offer a voice to the voiceless, and to bring good news to those in need.

Now, I have some remarks here, but I thought I would just tell you a couple stories. We lost Norman Mineta this year, as you know, and some of us were together at his service. Mr. Ambassador, Governor, former colleague Jim Blanchard, I call him Jamie because one of his friends was my friend and always referred to him as Jamie.

He spoke before I did, and he talked about how a number of Members come together on a regular basis and discuss this, that, and the other thing, and they have all this guidance that they want to give us. When I got up, I said, I am very familiar with that group—George Miller, Tom Downey, Marty Russo, you know, that whole crew—you know who I am talking about.

When they would call me with this guidance that they brought together, they would say: Madam Speaker, if you were smart, you would do thus and so. And I didn't take offense because I used to hear them say that to Tom Foley and others. Why they thought that was a good introduction to their remarks, I don't know. In any event, I think it was said in—I don't know why somebody would say that to you? If you were smart, you would do it this way. That is the wisdom of the former Members; but when they were Members, they said that, as well.

I thank you all for what you do to continue taking the experience of Congress into the community, the values of patriotism to our great country—what has unified us so much over time. Imagine the wisdom of our Founders to found a country based on something unknown, undone before.

Now, I see some Members here who are going to be part of this organization. All of a sudden, I am like, what? One of these days I will be joining you, too. I look forward to that, but in the meantime know that the foundation that each of you has put down when you were here is something that we continue to draw upon. It is very important to us—especially at a time when we worked in a much more bipartisan way, and that always has to be what we strive for—bipartisanship, accountability, and shedding light on what we do so that the people understand that their voices are heard.

I hope that you always take pride in your service in Congress no matter how raucous it may be here. We have seen some raucous times in our day going way back. Again, please understand the source of strength and inspiration that you all continue to be to us here, and the fact that you come together, whether it is on this day or technologically in other ways, and don't hesitate to call us, even if it is not the Speaker, but other Members to say: If you were smart, you would do thus and so.

So it is my pleasure—for the last time—to welcome you to this Chamber as Speaker of the House. Again, when I

see you again, I may be sitting on that side of this podium, so I look forward to that.

Thank you all for your patriotism, for your love of this great country, the greatest country that ever existed in the history of the world.

Let me tell you what is happening today. Today, the President will be signing the Respect for Marriage Act. That is a big deal for some of us. In my first speech on this floor, I talked about HIV and AIDS 35 years ago. One of the last bills I signed as Speaker for the first time was the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. One of the last bills I signed to send over to the President that he will sign today is the Respect for Marriage Act, in between the other things that relate to the hate crimes and all that.

The reason I mention it is because it was always an expansion of freedom in our country, and that is what we hope we always continue to do—ever increasing the freedom in our country.

At the end of the day, I will welcome 50 heads of state from Africa. The President is having an African summit now, and he will be welcoming 50 heads of state at the White House. Then, tonight, they will come here.

I am so proud that we can show them this temple of democracy, welcome them here, hear what they have to say, build a strong bond with them.

So many of you have been so much a part of everything that has happened here. I thank you for that, forever expanding freedom in our country. Thank you so much. Lovely to be with you.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, thank you very much for visiting with us, and thank you, especially, for your great leadership of the Congress.

The Speaker mentioned Don McEachin, our fellow Virginian, and she also mentioned Norm Mineta, both of whom passed away recently.

I would also like to say a few words about our good friend Jim Kolbe. As many of you may know, Jim passed away about a week ago. It was quite sudden and quite unexpected.

With his passing, we and FMC lost a good friend, a longtime board member, and a voice of reason and compassion during these tumultuous political times that we are currently experiencing. All of us at FMC, from the staff to the board, loved working with Jim. We will certainly miss him greatly.

As you may know, and many of you participate in this service, we, each year, organize a memorial service in Statuary Hall. The Speaker just talked about it. This is to honor the Members whom we have lost in the previous year. It is a fitting tribute to their public service.

I include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of all the Members whom we honored in Statuary Hall this past September.

LIST OF FORMER MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY
FALL OCTOBER 2021–DECEMBER 2022

The Hon. Todd Akin (Missouri), Brad Ashford (Nebraska), Dan Benishek (Michi-

gan), Bill Brewster (Oklahoma), Clarence "Bud" Brown Jr. (Ohio), Albert Bustamante (Texas), Max Cleland (Georgia), Barbara-Rose Collins (Michigan), John Cooksey (Louisiana), Bob Dole (Kansas), Harris Fawell (Illinois), Vic Fazio (California), James Florio (New Jersey), Ed Foreman (Texas and New Mexico), George Gekas (Pennsylvania).

The Hon. Jim Hagedorn (Minnesota), Orrin Hatch (Utah), Kaneaster Hodges Jr. (Arkansas), Larry Hopkins (Kentucky), Carroll Hubbard (Kentucky), Johnny Isakson (Georgia), Timothy Johnson (Illinois), Dale Kildee (Michigan), James "Jim" Kolbe (Arizona), Bob Krueger (Texas), Claude "Buddy" Leach (Louisiana), Gary A. Lee (New York), Romano "Ron" Mazzoli (Kentucky), Jack H. McDonald (Michigan).

The Hon. A. Donald McEachin (Virginia), Carrie Meek (Florida), Norm Mineta (California), Dennis Moore (Kansas), John Porter (Illinois), Harry Reid (Nevada), J. Roy Rowland (Georgia), Norman D. Shumway (California), Neal Smith (Iowa), Mark Souder (Indiana), James Stanton (Ohio), Standish "Fletcher" Thomson (Georgia), Esteban Torres (California), Jolene Unsoeld (Washington), Jackie Walorski (Indiana), Don Young (Alaska), Bill Zeff (New Hampshire).

Mr. PAYNE. For them, and for Jim Kolbe, I am asking that you in the Chamber and any visitors in the gallery please stand, if you are able, so that we can show our respect to these Members with a moment of silence.

As you can see, FMC is an active and impactful organization that empowers Members to continue their service after leaving Congress. We are energized, and we are having tremendous success for, really, three reasons.

One is the outstanding work that our board and our staff have done to solidify our mission, to put in place achievable goals and strategize how to best move FMC forward.

The second reason is our amazing group of partners. These are the corporations that donate to us, especially by way of the Statesmanship Awards Dinner, because they believe in our purpose and recognize the positive impact we are having. They have meant so much to FMC and to allowing us to achieve our purpose.

You have heard of these entities. Connie mentioned them previously. They have done so much, and we so appreciate all that they have done. They believe in our capabilities, and they believe in giving us the opportunity to grow and create long-lasting programming and to allow us to do all the things that we are able to do. So, we thank them again.

The third and the most important reason for FMC's success is all of you, the former Members of Congress who are my colleagues who donate your time, expertise, wisdom, and leadership. You do this by becoming dues-paying, active members of FMC.

I hope that you retiring Members have found the insight that we have shared today helpful. We hope that you would also consider becoming part of us and help us continue this mission. We would love to connect with you in person, and I hope you will join us immediately after this downstairs in H-120. We will have a reception, and we would like to have you be part of that.

I would also like to thank our staff: Pete, who is here, and our staff members there, if you would all stand, please. Let's give them a round of applause.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings during the former Members program be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the proceedings have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

Mr. ROSS. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROSS. The Chair again wishes to thank the former and retiring Members of Congress of the House for their presence here today.

Before ending these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former and retiring Members who did not respond when the roll call was called to give their names to the Reading Clerk for inclusion in the roll.

On behalf of FMC, my sincere thanks to all congressional staff who were such a terrific resource and support to make today's presentation possible. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the reception.

We are adjourned.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Satisfy us this morning, O Lord, with Your unfailing love, that our only response would be to sing to You our joy and be glad in all our days.

Today, may we be faithful not only in our words but in our deeds.

May we follow bravely Your footsteps wherever they may lead.

May we be uncompromising and honest with ourselves.

May there be no self-pity or self-indulgence in our lives today.

May our thinking be clear, our speech truthful and open, and our action courageous and decisive.

Our prayers today are not just for ourselves, but also for the communities and people we serve. And so we pray:

For all who today will face any great decision.

For all those today working to settle important affairs in the lives of individuals and nations.

For all who are shaping public opinion in our time.

For all who write what other people read.

For all who are lifting up the light of truth in a world of ignorance and sin.

For all whose hands are worn with too much work, and for the unemployed whose hands have found no work today.